

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-24. (Canceled)

100 x 10⁻¹⁰

25. (currently amended) A method of making a circular blade for cutting a moving material web, the blade having a steel cutting edge, the method comprising the step of:
coating a surface of the cutting edge at a treatment temperature between 180°C and 350°C by means of plasma with foreign ions to a depth between 50 µm and 500 µm.

26. (previously presented) The blade making method defined in claim 25 wherein the depth is between 100 µm and 200 µm.

27. (previously presented) The blade making method defined in claim 25, further comprising the step of
imparting to the cutting edge a hardness of 800 HV to 1300 HV without impairing its ductility.

28. (previously presented) The blade making method defined in claim 27 wherein the hardness is between 900 HV and 1200 HV.

29. (previously presented) The blade making method defined in claim 25 wherein at least the cutting edge is formed of a heat-treated steel, a high-speed steel, or a tool steel.

30. (previously presented) The blade making method defined in claim 25 wherein the entire blade is formed of a heat-treated steel, a high-speed steel, or a tool steel.

31. (previously presented) The blade making method defined in claim 25 wherein the foreign ions are of nitrogen, carbon, molybdenum, tungsten, and/or molybdenum.

32. (previously presented) The blade making method defined in claim 31 wherein a portion of the molybdenum or tungsten ions in the foreign ions is greater than a portion of titanium ions.

33. (new) The blade making method defined in claim 25 wherein the treatment temperature is between 220°C and 280°C.